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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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10/583,174

09/14/2006

Tomomichi Chigusa

8957-000006/US/NP

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27572 7590 07/01/2008
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EXAMINER

PUROL, DAVID M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3634

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/01/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/583,174 | CHIGUSA, TOMOMICHI | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | David M. Purol | 3634 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 June 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>06162006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

1. The preliminary amendment filed on June 16, 2206 has been entered.
2. On page 9, paragraph 20 refers to the operating device as including a known self-weight drop prevention device. It is not clear if the applicant is referring to this drop prevention device as being prior art encompassing the claimed invention. The applicant is to clarify this statement.

On page 10, paragraph 22 refers to "and the like". However, it is not known as to what constituents constitute "and the like". The applicant is to clarify this statement.

On page 11, paragraph 26 uses the reference numeral 11 to designate both the supporting member and the penetrating hole. Only one reference numeral is to be used to refer to a particular element.

Appropriate correction is required.

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-12 are rejected as failing to define the invention in the manner required by 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

These claims are replete with indefinite language for which its intended meaning is not understood, grammatical and/or idiomatic errors, and narrative in form setting forth functional or operational language for which there is insufficient structural recitation to warrant its presence. For example: claim 1, line 2 "which rotatably supports", line 2 "supports a", line 3 "by a lifting cord supported by", line 3 "enables said", line 4 "to be led

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in by rotation driving”, lines 4-5 “a rolling-up direction” for which there is an improper antecedent basis, line 5 “a driving shaft” for which there is an improper antecedent basis, line 5 “an operating means” which is a means clause devoid of a statement of an intended function, line 6 “enables said”, line 6 “perform lead-out operation”, line 7 “an unwinding direction” for which there is an improper antecedent basis, line 7 “by a tension exerted on”, line 8 “on the basis of operation”, lines 8-9 “stops the lead-out operation by detecting”, line 10 “at the time of the lead-out operation of said”, line 14 “a tension in a lead-out direction is not exerted”, lines 16-17 “on the basis of rotation relative”, lines 17-18 “in which rotation is blocked on the basis of function”; claim 2, lines 2-3 “said obstacle detection means is configured by a friction generating means formed between said”, lines 3-4 “a supporting member” for which there is an improper antecedent basis; claim 3, lines 3-4 “becomes an engagement state or a disengagement state”, line 4 “a supporting member” for which there is an improper antecedent basis, line 5 “on the basis of rotation relative to said”; claim 4, line 4 “a first stopping means” which is a means clause devoid of a statement of an intended function, line 4 “formed nonrotatably relative to said”, line 5 “movably relative thereto along an axial direction”, lines 5-6 “inclined with respect, line 6 “an axis line” for which there is an improper antecedent basis, line 7 “a second stopping means” which is a means clause devoid of a statement of an intended function, line 8 “within a predetermined range”, line 8 “movably relative thereto in the axial direction”, lines 8-9 “by including a sliding projected part nonmovable relative”, line 11 “a third stopping means” which is a means clause devoid of a statement of an intended function, line 11

“which engages with said”, lines 11-12 “and stops rotation of said”, lines 13-14 “by the rotation relative to said”, line 14 “and stops the rotation by engaging with said”, lines 16-17 “stops the rotation of said driving shaft by engagement between”, line 17 “a controlling projected part” for which there is an improper antecedent basis, line 17 “provided in said”, line 18 “the basis of”, lines 18-19 “an engaging projected part” for which there is an improper antecedent basis, line 19 “formed in said”, line 19 “formed engageably with said”; claim 5, lines 2-3 “is configured to arrange”, line 3 “a plurality of braking claws” for which there is an improper antecedent basis, line 4 “formed at even angles along a circumferential direction”; claim 6, line 3 “is provided at only two winding pulleys arranged on both sides of”. Likewise, claims 7-12 suffer from the above noted defects.

The structure which goes to make up the device must be clearly and positively specified. The structure must be organized and correlated in such a manner as to present a complete operative device.

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to David M. Purol whose telephone number is (571) 272-6833.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Katherine Mitchell, can be reached at (571) 272-7069. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/David M Purol/
David M Purol
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3634

/D. M. P./
(571) 272-6833
June 25, 2008